summarized with a brief description, materials, size, manufacture, and price. A small picture divulges the essence of the apparatus (in sharp contrast to many photographs in scientific papers, which all too often hide the truth). The general information paragraphs cover topics such as where to obtain booklets on 'Telephone—Help for the Handicapped', 'How to Become a Radio Amateur', and 'Typing with One Hand'. These may attract you to buy the book for your own sake let alone your patients'. £1.50 for these 55 pages is a good investment.

V. WRIGHT

Rehabilitation Medicine. The Management of Physical Disabilities. By P. J. R. Nichols. 1976. Pp. 311. Butterworths, London (£8.00)

Dr. Nichols has written a valuable book, with the assistance of Dr. Hamilton from Oxford, which includes a contribution by Dr. Hazelman from Cambridge. All clinicians should be concerned with the rehabilitation of their patients, but as is often the case, 'that which is everybody's business is nobody's business', a quotation from Isaac Walton's 'Compleat Angler' which appears on the frontispiece.

This book is an attempt to describe the rehabilitation approach to common clinical problems and the role of the physiotherapist and occupational therapist in this approach. There are useful chapters on the organization of rehabilitation services, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy, followed by separate chapters on neck and shoulder pain, backache, osteoarthritis, fractures, dislocations, strokes, amputees (2 chapters: the young and the elderly), chronic bronchitis, and rehabilitation after a heart attack. Rheumatoid arthritis is chosen as the model to describe the wide aspects of the rehabilitation approach. In an otherwise good chapter on strokes, the description of the clinical symptoms and signs was not strictly neurological: loss of motor power and sensation coming before hemianopia, aphasia, apraxia which is then followed by dementia and urinary incontinence. Many of the problems of assessment and treatment are discussed, for example, that there is still no standardized method of progressive therapy in stroke and this is one of the reasons why it is not possible to compare the results of one centre with another.

The book is written in a distinctive style with clear headings, subheadings, and useful lists but there are no diagrams or plates. Common sense abounds throughout the text, *e.g.* 8 ways are described how a mildly disabled driver with rheumatoid arthritis can increase his comfort and efficiency from installing extra mirrors to limit the amount of neck movements required, to using extra large control knobs and automatic transmission. Each chapter ends with a summary and selected bibliography.

This immensely practical book should be widely read by hospital doctors and general practitioners and there is no doubt that physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and medical students will enjoy it. The main criticism is that the price of the book, £8, may limit the number of prospective readers and it is hoped that a cheaper, paperback edition could be produced in the near future.

R. CAPILDEO

Recent Advances in Rheumatology. Part I. Underlying Mechanisms of Disease. 1976. Pp. 214; illustrated. (£8.00). Part II. Clinical Features and Treatment. 1976. Pp. 218; illustrated. (£8.00). Edited by W. Watson Buchanan and W. Carson Dick. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh.

These two volumes make enjoyable reading: they should prove popular to everyone working in rheumatology. The editors point out that any book on recent advances in rheumatology written at the moment suffers from the inevitable drawback that it will be out of date very quickly. For this reason they have chosen topics in which advances are at least becoming solidified, or those which are of particular relevance to clinical rheumatology.

27 authors contribute to 14 chapters which are divided so that the first volume is devoted to subjects of a pathogenetic nature and the second volume to subjects which have direct relevance to clinical practice. The editors are to be congratulated for bringing together authors from several countries and in the chapters devoted to surgical treatment both physician and surgeon collaborate. Each of the 14 main subjects are discussed fully and end with a comprehensive and up-to-date bibliography.

Dr. E. Rabin and his colleagues give a readable and encouraging account of osteoarthritis, and as they consider osteoarthritis to be a state of altered physiology, it should be amenable to biological control. The next chapter on amyloidosis by Dr. A. Cohen, who has contributed extensively to this subject, provides a concise account of recent knowledge. Drs. A. Bohan and J. Peter admirably review polymyositis and dermatomyositis, and their efforts to emphasize areas of fact, fancy, and fiction will provoke much discussion. There follows an excellent account of systemic lupus erythematosus by Drs. K. Whaley (Virginia, U.S.A.) G. Hughes (Hammer-smith Hospital, London), and J. Webb (Sydney, Australia). They emphasize both the clinical advances and the increasing interest in the animal models of the disease which suggest that the disease may arise from an interaction of genetic factors and viral infection.

Drs. J. Levy and M. Whitehouse then examine both animal models and *in vitro* assay systems used in the evaluation of immunosuppressive drugs. Their hope being that less toxic agents may be developed. Drs. H. Fudenberg and J. Wells discuss the pathogenesis of 'autoimmune' disease with particular emphasis on the possible role of suppressor T cells. There follows a useful chapter by Drs. I. Zeilstein and D. Grennan on the role of inflammatory mediators in joint inflammation, a difficult but an important area for further research.

The second volume devoted to clinical features and treatment begins with an excellent chapter by Dr. P. Lee and W. Carson Dick on assessment of disease activity and drug evaluation. There follows one of the best accounts on current management of rheumatoid arthritis that I have seen, the authors being Dr. P. Brooks and Professor W. W. Buchanan. The two chapters on surgical treatment are dealt with by Mr. I. Jackson and Dr. P. Rooney and Mr. P. Freeman and Dr. R. Sturrock respectively. The discussion of hand surgery is particularly excellent and it emphasizes the failings of finger joint

prostheses. The section on knee arthroplasty probably paints too rosy a picture of present practice.

There follow two chapters on the eye complications of connective tissue disease, an area of much recent interest. The first by Dr. J. Williamson, who has worked closely with the Glasgow rheumatologists, provides a welcome review with a useful section on iatrogenic disease. Then follows a chapter on episcleritis and scleritis by Mr. D. McGavin; rare disorders, but important because of the difference in prognosis of the two conditions and because the development of scleritis portends serious disease.

As the editors state, no book on recent advances in rheumatology would be complete without mentioning

the present status of tissue typing with regard to the seronegative arthritides and here Professor V. Wright and Drs. R. Sturrock and W. Carson Dick have combined to produce a useful summary of the implications of genetic factors to the seronegative arthritides.

The two volumes are attractively produced and well illustrated, although the plate of colour photographs at the beginning of each volume does not really complement the text. The price at £8.00 a volume is not unreasonable and I am sure that they will be popular, for they will appeal not only to rheumatologists but to a much wider readership.

B. L. HAZLEMAN